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SUMMARY

The rapidly-narrowing gap between the Soviet attitude toward Hitler Germany, on one hand, and the erstwhile Western allies, on the other, is repeatedly stressed in the bulky volume of central and regional comment on the 11th anniversary of the German invasion of the USSR.

In industry, much official pressure is exerted toward the achievement of higher production quality without sacrificing quantity. Resistance to a further speed-up of production is seen in the regional radio and press complaints that fast-working stakhanovites, "whose example is to be emulated," are often prevented from demonstrating their superior achievements in plants. Some attention is focused on the average consumer and the amenities of his daily life. The latter are reported to be adversely affected by the continuing housing shortage and entirely unsatisfactory medical service.

Ideological fault-finding is confined to the Ukraine, where the hatred for bourgeois-nationalists is "not strong enough", and Uzbek SSR, the latest "enfant prodige" of the Soviet ideological family. Lecture propaganda in these Republics is said to be affected by the mental climate prevailing in industry. The objectionable tendency to work for "high quantitative indices" of political lectures without regard to their contents is undoing much of what propaganda is intended to do. Disparaging references to the attitude toward Uzbek women suggest the belief that their widely-heralded equality with men, in that Republic at least, is not yet a fait accompli.

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